

## BRIEFS

### NIGERIA MILITARY FREES EXTREMISTS' PRISONERS

**BORNO STATE, Nigeria (BP)** — More than 1,000 captives were freed and 50 Boko Haram terrorists killed last week in ongoing fighting in Borno State between Islamic extremists and the government, Nigerian military officials said. Women, children, and a few young men forced to fight for Boko Haram comprised the freed captives, Nigerian Brig. Gen. Texas Chukwu said in a May 7 press release. He did not give an exact number of those freed, but said the Multinational Joint Task Force retrieved the captives from Boko Haram enclaves in four villages in the Baba local government area of Borno State.

### BEAT THE HEAT, GAINES TELLS MEETING GOERS

**DALLAS (BP)** — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines is recommending casual dress for the upcoming 2018 SBC annual meeting in a few weeks, amid Dallas' oppressive heat. "This year I am once again encouraging all messengers to the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting to dress casually," the senior pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis told Baptist Press. "Summer temperatures in Texas can run in the 90s and men should feel free not to wear a necktie. Speakers on the platform are encouraged to dress in business casual attire."

### PASTOR TURNS OUT INCUMBENT IN N.C.

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)** — Former pastor and Baptist State Convention of North Carolina president Mark Harris has become the first congressional candidate this year to force an incumbent out of office, in what is expected to be a tumultuous mid-term national election year across the United States. Harris, who resigned the pastorate of First Church in Charlotte last year to focus on a run for the U.S. House of Representatives, defeated three-term U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger May 8 by a 49-46 percent margin in the Republican primary for North Carolina's Ninth District.

## New president takes helm at Miss. College

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

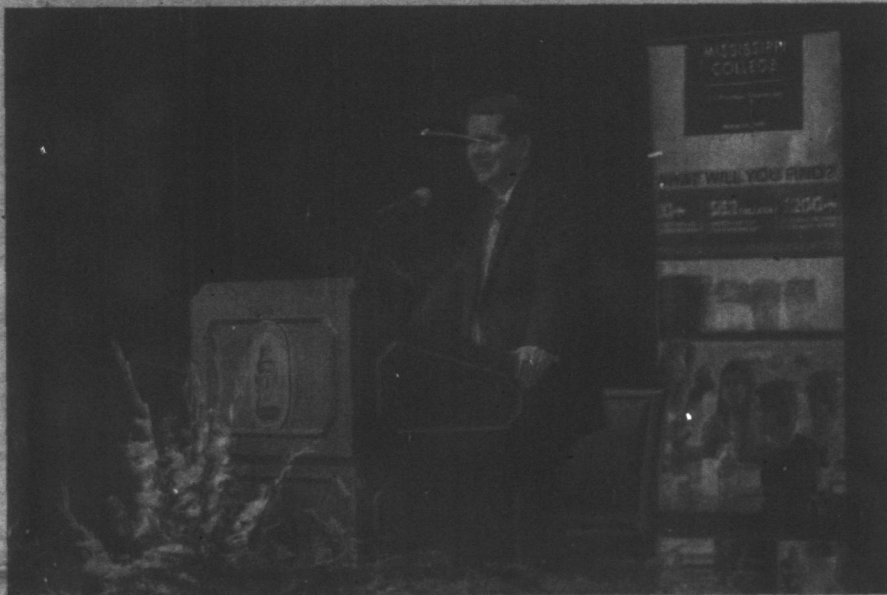
Blake Thompson, a 43-year old native of Rienzi, was presented on the afternoon of May 14 as the next president of Mississippi College in Clinton, replacing the retiring Lee G. Royce.

He comes to the Christian university, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, from Ohio State University in Columbus where he served as vice-president of the Office of Governmental Affairs and was a member of the President's Cabinet.

In addition, he served as secretary of Ohio State University's board of trustees and was in charge of the board's governing office, strategy and agenda development, and coordinator of the board's committees.

Thompson holds a Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy in Oxford, an Executive Master's degree from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business in Washington, D.C., and both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Mississippi.

According to information provided by Mississippi College, during his tenure at Ohio State University he was vice-



**NEW PRESIDENT** — Blake Thompson was presented May 14 by the Mississippi College board of trustees as the 20th president of the Christian university on the school's campus in Clinton. Thompson, who was raised in Rienzi, will assume his new duties on July 1. (Photo courtesy of Mississippi College).

president for economic and workforce development and a special assistant to the president, where he served as board chair and led the university's Science and Technology Campus. He also held a joint vice-president appointment with

Battelle, the world's leading non-profit R&D organization, where he led large scale research, education, and philanthropic partnerships.

Earlier, he was a senior staff member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

in Washington, D.C., where he practiced policy-making at a national scale. Prior to that, he was director of university partnerships for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tn., where he built

see MC on p. 6

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, as you hold onto the faith of the gospel."

# FREE

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Loose lips sink ships

Disasters are striking in distant reaches of the globe, as always, creating scared and hungry victims who have no idea what the future holds.

Southern Baptists — and Mississippi Baptists — will be there. They won't be featured in the headlines or spotlighted on the nightly television news, but they are there. In areas where they had to keep their heads down even before the tsunami disaster, they are hard at work to coordinate the Southern Baptist response.

Teams of trained Southern Baptist disaster relief workers are gearing up for the long-term recovery efforts, Mississippi Baptists included. They will be working closely with those Southern Baptist personnel on the scene to get into areas where no Christian has trod in generations. There are at least three ever-present dangers all of them face that should keep us on our knees in prayer around the clock:

■ Many of the areas in the path of the disasters are overwhelmingly Muslim, and more than a few have been locked in civil war for many years with Islamic extremists. All relief workers, and especially those from religious organizations, could be targeted by terrorists.

■ Career Southern Baptist personnel in these areas risk exposure, expulsion, or worse if their profiles get too elevated during this crisis.

■ Southern Baptist volunteers could be denied admittance to any of the countries affected by the disasters. Many borders have already been closed to outsiders, and scrutiny of incoming relief workers continues to increase with each passing week.

We need to understand that Christians are not welcome in many of these countries. As a television commentator put it, "Some of these governments would rather see their children starve before they accept a crumb of bread from the wrong groups." Those "wrong" groups include Christians.

The saying, "Loose lips sink ships," was used extensively in World War II, and it means that information from people who talked about which troops were shipping out and where they were going could result in the enemy acquiring the information and thus being able to sink a shipload of soldiers before they reached a faraway battlefield.

Loose lips can also sink our Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts. At a time when Christians are at risk all over the world, we must be very careful in what we say or write about the relief effort. For example, neither The Baptist Record nor the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board website will identify the countries or specific areas into which volunteers will be traveling when doing so could jeopardize their safety or the success of their mission.

Church and association newsletters, bulletins, websites — especially websites — and other publications should be cautious, too.

The Baptist Record will keep Mississippi Baptists informed of the relief effort, but with an elevated awareness of what's at stake to help guard the safety and security of the many determined and dedicated workers and volunteers.

## Running at full power

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we are sorry for the delay but it seems we cannot start the engines."

Those are not the words you want to hear while sitting on a 747 jet in Tokyo, hoping to make it all the way back to the U.S. from a mission trip.

After examination, it was determined that the issue was a clogged fuel filter. Ninety minutes later, the pilot announced that the fuel filter had been cleaned out and we would be taking off soon. By this point, my level of confidence had been a bit shattered.

During the 14-hour flight, I thought about our perfectly good engines being rendered useless by something as simple as a clogged fuel filter. I began to wonder about the spiritual lesson in that experience.

Yes, there was a lesson in trusting the Lord to get me home safely, a lesson in patience, and also a lesson in using that opportunity to share with seat-mates. There was even a lesson in overcoming the heat in the cabin during the delay.

The lesson that took over most of my thoughts was wondering if the fuel filter of my heart had ever gotten clogged and prevented me from being able to fly with the power God intended. What might clog my fuel filter?

■ **Not being intentional in studying God's Word.** David tells us in Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Being in the Word every day is my map for the day. It tells me how and where to fly. Philippians 4:9 reminds me to think on whatever is right, lovely, and worthy of praise. My mind can stay focused on what really matters when I keep these things before me but without having God's Word hidden in my heart, it's a little tough to know what really is right, lovely, and worthy of praise. When I lose sight of that, I lose sight of the path that is lit. And soon, I'm left feeling burned out.

■ **Does my "fuel filter" get clogged when my prayer life is**



### Guest opinion

with Gayle Parker

**Lacking?** 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "pray without ceasing" (NKJV). Do I really do that? Do I pray for the Muslim woman I pass at the mall? Do I pray for ministry awareness? Do I pray for eyes that see the sin in my life? Do I pray for my enemies as well as my friends?

When I feel as if my prayers stop at the ceiling, is it because my spiritual filter is clogged? After all, Jesus told the disciples when they could not cast out the demon, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer" (Mark 10:29).

Most of us, at some time in our walk with the Lord, experience burn out, fatigue, and feelings of powerlessness. Our engines just won't start. The good news is we are still bound for heaven, Jesus is still our Savior, and the Holy Spirit is still very much a part of our lives.

Perhaps our weariness is a reminder to take a bit of a Sabbath and clean out the fuel filters. Like that 747 plane, once they are cleared we will be more than ready for the long flight ahead with power to spare as His witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Parker is adjunct professor at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas. She has served in ministry for more than 30 years as a pastor's wife, IMB missionary, and women's ministry consultant. This column first appeared at the [BiblicalWoman.com](http://BiblicalWoman.com) website of Southwestern Seminary, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for length, style, and clarity.

## The Baptist Record

**Editor**  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
[wperkins@mbcb.org](mailto:wperkins@mbcb.org)

**Associate Editor**  
Tony Martin  
[tmartin@mbcb.org](mailto:tmartin@mbcb.org)

**Layout/Design**  
Megan Young  
[myoung@mbcb.org](mailto:myoung@mbcb.org)

**Advertising**  
Dana Richardson  
[drichardson@mbcb.org](mailto:drichardson@mbcb.org)

**Circulation Manager**  
DeAnna Burgess  
[dburgess@mbcb.org](mailto:dburgess@mbcb.org)

**Baptist Record Advisory Committee:**  
Whit Lewis, New Albany  
Derrick Wilson, Kosciusko  
Carolyn Reeves, Oxford  
Garland Boyd, Brookhaven  
Lucy Stringer, Foxworth  
Don Hicks, Bay Springs

**Postmaster:**  
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

**Send news, communication, and address changes to:** The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

**Tel:** (601) 988-3800  
**Fax:** (601) 292-3330  
**E-mail:** [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org)



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# Muslim terrorists strike Indonesia on Mother's Day

**EAST JAVA, Indonesia (BP)** — Islamic extremists in Indonesia, including a family of suicide bombers that targeted three churches, launched multiple attacks beginning Mother's Day that reportedly killed at least 25 people.

East Java police told reporters May 14 that 13 of the 25 dead were the assailants, according to the Jakarta Post. The newspaper reported that 12 worshippers died in the church attacks. The bombings, the deadliest in Indonesia in more than a decade, also wounded 40 people.

The father of the family that killed the Christians on Mother's Day, Dita Putrianto, was the suspected head of the local cell of an Islamic State-inspired network called Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), the BBC reported in citing police.

Putrianto was reported to have dropped off his wife Puji Kuswati and their two daughters, ages nine and 12, at Diponegoro Indonesian Christian Church in Surabaya, East Java. With her two daughters present, Kuswati hugged a parishioner before detonating her bomb, according to the Associated Press, which cited a security guard.

At Surabaya Centre Pentecostal Church, Putrianto then drove his car onto the church grounds and detonated explosives. Earlier in the morning his sons, ages 16 and 18, had ridden motorcycles into Santa Maria Catholic Church and detonated their explosives.

Police reportedly said the second and third church attacks came five minutes apart.

Two other churches were targeted as well, but bombs failed to explode at St. Jacob's Church in West Surabaya and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral, according to the Post.

Another family reportedly attacked a police station, wounding 10 people including police officers. The four perpetrators

on two motorbikes died after driving into the building gateway and detonating explosives, according to police, who said an eight-year-old girl on one of the motorcycles was thrown from the vehicle but survived.

On Sunday night, a bomb in the Wonocolo low-cost housing complex in Sidoarjo exploded prematurely, killing a woman and her 17-year-old child, police said. Officers reportedly found the father of the family in the house holding a detonator and shot him.

The family's 12-year-old son reportedly took two younger sisters to the Bhayangkara Police Hospital.

Police said they killed four suspected members of JAD in Cianjur, West Java Province, and arrested two others, the BBC reported.

The Islamic State (known as ISIS) claimed responsibility for the church attacks. ISIS also claimed responsibility for an attack on a high-security prison near Jakarta that killed five security forces personnel earlier this month, among other attacks.

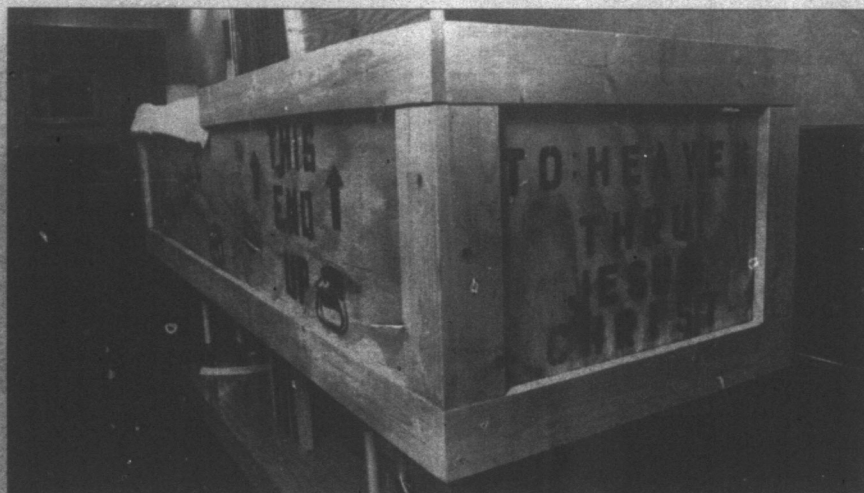
On Feb. 11 in Central Java's city of Yogyakarta, a Muslim extremist attacked a Catholic church. The 23-year-old, identified as Sulyono of Bayuwangi in East Java, wounded a priest and three others during Mass at St. Lidwina Catholic Church.

The Jakarta Post quoted National Police spokesman Setyo Wasisto as saying that the February assault fit a pattern of recent terrorist attacks in other countries, and that Sulyono had been radicalized after joining several religious organizations, which Wasisto declined to name, while a student in Sulawesi.

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Photo by Naruedom Yaempongsa/Shutterstock.com



**ARRIVAL CONFIRMED** — Retired Southern Baptist missionary Patricia Stooksbury lies in state at Wallace Mortuary in Knoxville, following her death on April 29. Stooksbury commissioned her unique casket so there would be no doubt about her confidence in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, and her commitment to the Great Commission. (BP photo courtesy of Stevens Mortuary)

## Missionary's custom-built casket leaves no doubt about salvation

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports)** — Retired Southern Baptist missionary Patricia Stooksbury, 70, of Powell, Tenn., wanted everyone to know her life's journey. She had it printed plainly on her pine shipping crate-modeled casket.



John Green, pastor of Wallace Memorial Church in Knoxville, Tenn., described the casket as unique and unlike anything he'd ever seen.

"I was so impressed because it was such an interesting way to share about her faith," Green told Baptist Press on May 9. "Everyone recognizes a shipping crate is sending you to another destination."

"That's the story she was telling, even in her death — the story she was telling all throughout her life, which is that through faith in Christ we can have another home where we'll spend eternity."

Stooksbury surrendered to the call to missions at the age of 16. She was a graduate of Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tenn., which is affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., an institution of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., commissioned Stooksbury for the mission field in 1976. She spent more than 36 years spreading the Gospel, first as a Journeyman in Ecuador, then as a missionary to Costa Rica and Bolivia.

She took medical leave in 2010, returning to the U.S. with



**FAREWELL** — Mourners attending Patricia Stooksbury's visitation and funeral on May 3 wrote farewell messages to the 70-year-old on the sides of the casket. (Photo courtesy of Stevens Mortuary)

pulmonary hypertension and stage 3 kidney failure.

She commissioned her casket in 2014 from Stevens Mortuary in Knoxville, the Knoxville News Sentinel wrote at the time.

"I think it's appropriate for the occasion," the News Sentinel quoted Stooksbury as saying in an interview. "I want those at my funeral to notice my witness. I am going back to God, so I had them put 'Return to Sender' on top."

"On the sides, in English and Spanish, it says, 'To Heaven thru Jesus Christ,' because it is because of Him and what He did that I can get there."

Friends who spoke at her funeral, including her Knoxville pastor Mark Sasser, said she relished heaven.

"Here's what I learned about Pat over the years that I've known her — she was ready to go," said Sasser, pastor of Callahan Church. "She was ready to go. She had made her preparation."

Stooksbury accepted her call to missions while a teenage member of Wallace Memorial Church,

under the tutelage of former and longtime pastor Jim McCuskey. She joined Callahan Church after retiring from the mission field.

Retired Southern Baptist missionaries Carter and Charlotte Davis, longtime friends of Stooksbury, also noted her eagerness for heaven.

"Why isn't the Lord calling me home?" she asked Carter Davis two months before her death, Davis recalled at the funeral. He didn't know what to tell her, he said, other than God still had use for her on earth.

After the funeral, Stooksbury was laid to rest at Woodhaven Memorial Gardens in Claxton, Tenn.

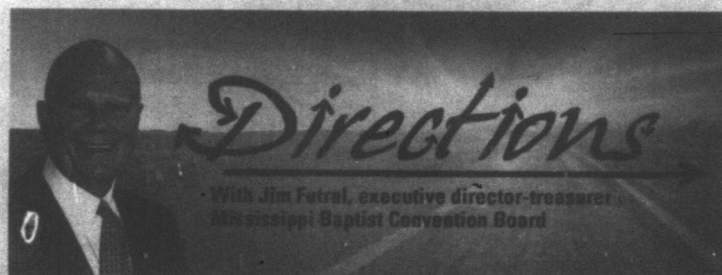
Bringing greetings from IMB to her survivors, Davis read from Ecclesiastes 7:1, "A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth (NIV)."

"That's the way Patricia viewed death, something to behold and celebrate. Patricia, we love you and we miss you. We return you to sender."

**Y**ou don't need me to tell you pollen season has arrived. From all the rain we have received and now with warm weather covering the land, everything is blooming and growing and pollen is everywhere. The Yellow Haze has arrived. I don't remember a recent day when somebody has not complained about the pollen — and sometimes it's me doing the complaining. Folks who have allergies really are affected. For some, eyes are swollen nearly shut or breathing is affected. Pollen does have adverse consequences for a lot of folks.

On the other hand, it touches all of us. Pollen gets on our cars and vehicles and gets on our clothes, our cats, everything. One day, though I didn't intend to keep count, I heard so many people one after another comment on the pollen and complain about it that I just started keeping up with how many people were saying something derogatory about pollen. By the afternoon, I was up to a dozen. I wasn't asking anyone about the pollen; they just wanted to share with me the problems of pollen.

Well, it is a problem but the other side of the issue is the great blessings pollen brings us. The benefits that come from pollen and pollination far outweigh the problems — a thousand times, maybe ten thousand times. It is a far greater blessing than problem. You could say goodbye to apples, oranges, pecans, almonds, kiwi, squash, okra, tomatoes. You name it; you just lost it. Without pollen, the food supply would literally dry up and there would be nothing for us or the animals that could provide additional food. Life would soon come to an end without the blessing of pollen. For the people who are severely affected severely by the pollen, you know it's hard to see the blessings through all the problems it may



## The Blessings of Pollen

create for you. Like pollen, experiences alight on every one of us all the time.

**Blessing One is that pollen and things like pollen are sometimes the very vehicle through which God brings the biggest blessings in our lives.** You don't like the pollen, but day after day, meal after meal, beauty after beauty, you see the things that God brings about because of the production of pollen. I have been reminded through the years of people I have known who had something go so wrong in their lives that they really got upset, only to find out what they complained about was actually the container that brought an incredible blessing to them.

I so often think about the woman in our church who, like most of us, did not like going to the doctor and sure did not want to go to the hospital. She came down with the flu. I mean, a sure enough, bone-aching, heart-breaking case of the old flu. She had to go to the hospital. That was not her desire, but she

had to. In fact, she was so sick she didn't have any other choice. After she got there they started giving her some medication and some fluid. She was feeling a little better but not happy to be in the hospital. Her husband asked the doctor while they had her there at the hospital if they could run some tests on her. The doctor agreed, knowing how difficult it was to get her to come either to the doctor or the hospital. They planned to run a few tests due to some minor difficulties she was having. The results showed she had a malignancy at an early stage. They were able to follow through with surgery and removal. Her life continued almost uninterrupted for years to come, all because she was so sick with the flu she went to the hospital and good things resulted. I know that none of us like some of the things in our lives that are essentials, but just remember that blessing one is God may be bring great, enormous blessings through some of the things we complain about.

**Blessing Two is that we need to remember as we wade through the pollen that all of the advances in life in every area, in every arena of life, have "pollen problems."** Just think about it. It doesn't matter what you're doing that is going to involve an advancement, an improvement, or an achievement, it's going to have a pollen-like problem. The downside, the awkward side, the part you don't particularly like, and whatever you're doing, will have some of that in order to get you where you need to be.

Let me just give you a series of things that many of you experience, like going to school, building a house, getting married, retiring, losing weight, or starting a new job. The list is endless of the things in our lives that bring about good and advancement that have pieces of it we wish weren't there. The pollen problem.

**Blessing Three is that you and I need to keep in mind every day, in whatever we are facing and walking through because of life's pollen issues, that the pollen and the peach are made for us by the same God.** He does know what He's doing. He does know what He's doing for us, so see the bigger picture and as you're trying to get through the day with its pollen plague, remember the crops will be coming in, wonderful meals that will be enjoyed, and the people, the animals, and the world that will be blessed because God provides us pollen.

I hope that today your life will be filled with wonderful, positive, uplifting, good things from God and that you will be able to see even for just a moment that pollen may be one of those blessings that God has given you.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

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HME WC, UGQY PQ OA UQNN, VYO

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RVEWQYENP, EGWL WL VXXQREVHNO

UWEG DAO.

CWBLE RQEQB EUA: EUQYEP

Clue: R = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans 11:33

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 17, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## FREE

### 2018 YOUTH NIGHT

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.  
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."  
— Galatians 5:1 —



FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018

6:30-8:30 P.M.

MISSISSIPPI COLISEUM, JACKSON

Speaker: JASON CURRY | Band: BROKEN VESSELS

No cost. No registration. Missions offering taken.

PLEASE CONTACT THE EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT AT 601-292-3278 OR  
LBURRIS@MBCB.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018

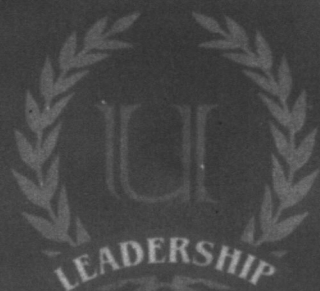
6:00-8:45 p.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church  
Brookhaven

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018

6:00-9:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church  
Brookhaven



Visit [www.msleadershipu.org](http://www.msleadershipu.org) for registration and lists of classes offered!

For more information, please contact Discipleship/Family Ministry at  
601-292-3284 or e-mail [tpresson@mbcb.org](mailto:tpresson@mbcb.org).

## THE LEADER I WANT TO BE

ONE DAY  
EVENT  
WITH  
JOHNNY  
HUNT

North American  
Mission Board

8.16.18 | Desoto Hills Baptist Church, Southaven

Cost: \$15 | Event: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Contact Pastor/Leadership Development at  
[vcary@mbcb.org](mailto:vcary@mbcb.org) for more information

## \*\*\*\*\* 2018 SPRING \*\*\*\*\* TRAILORIDE

MAY 25-26, 2018 | CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

6377 ATTALA ROAD 4227 | WEST, MS 39192



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LEB AT 601-292-3278 OR  
THE EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT AT [LBURRIS@MBCB.ORG](mailto:LBURRIS@MBCB.ORG).







Pray this day for...

May 18 - June 7, 2018

*"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."*

*Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)*

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Pariah**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Eugenia Putnam**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Tracy Putnam**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert Mooney**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support & church planting.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Allen**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Matthew Burke**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through general evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Cindy DeMars**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach evangelism.

## CHALLENGE TO BUILD

A MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FUND-RAISING PROGRAM FOR CHURCHES

If your congregation is in need of fund-raising services, the place to begin is on your knees in prayer. Through CHALLENGE TO BUILD, your church will discover the adequacy of Christ.

Consultants are trained to walk your church through an effective campaign. They will help enlist and train local church leaders for each phase of fund-raising. They will assist the church's leadership in the analysis of its potential giving, help set realistic goals, and produce maximum results.

For more information, contact the Stewardship Department at 601-292-3347 or [lleavell@mbcb.org](mailto:lleavell@mbcb.org).

MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

# MISSISSIPPI

*Tell this People*

The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions is the primary funding stream for key mission efforts in many different areas: Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton, Central Hills Retreat near West, Missions Volunteers, Church Multiplication, Community Ministry, Disaster Relief, Criminal Justice Ministries, Collegiate Outreach, Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps, Cross-Cultural Evangelism, Language/Deaf Ministry, and Port Ministry.

The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions is like the Cooperative Program's little sister, and adds value to what Mississippi Baptists are doing together in missions, church leadership training, and compassionate evangelism. The offering helps position us to fulfill the Great Commission appeal of Acts 1:8.

Contact our Mission Strategy Department at 601-292-3231 or e-mail [bbridges@mbcb.org](mailto:bbridges@mbcb.org) for more information.

# HOUSE TOPS



# U.S. embassy opens in Jerusalem; protestors die

**JERUSALEM (BP and local reports)** — As the United States marked the opening of the country's relocated embassy May 14 in Jerusalem, many Southern Baptists lauded the occasion and celebrated the modern state of Israel's 70th anniversary.

Meanwhile, more than 50 Palestinians were killed and 1,200 wounded by the Israeli military along the Israel-Gaza border as they protested the Trump administration's decision to move its embassy from Tel Aviv and recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The protestors also objected to what they view as Israel's violation of their human rights. Jamal Bishara, an Arab Israeli Southern Baptist, urged American evangelicals to take a stronger stand for the freedom and humanitarian aid of Palestinians in Israel.

About 800 people were on hand at the opening of the new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, formerly a U.S. consulate. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered a Scripture-laced address, according to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, and U.S. President Trump addressed the crowd via video from The White House in Washington, D.C.

"Israel is a sovereign nation with the right like every other sovereign nation to determine its own capital," Trump said in a recorded message, according to USA Today. "For many years we failed to acknowledge the obvious."

Robert Jeffress, senior pastor of First Church, Dallas, delivered the dedication ceremony's opening prayer, stating according to a news release, "As we look back, we see how Israel has been [a] blessing to the entire world, through her innovations in medicine, technology, and energy. But most of all, Israel has blessed this world by pointing us to You, the one true God, through the message of her prophets, the Scriptures and the Messiah."

Jim Sibley, a longtime Baptist representative in Israel who teaches at Israel College of the Bible in Netanya, told Baptist Press that Christians have political and theological reasons to celebrate Israel's seven decades of existence as a modern state, beginning on May 14, 1948.

"Israel is an island of democracy, where human rights and responsibilities are recognized and honored," Sibley said in written comments. "There are excellent reasons for the tremendous and historic ties between the United States and Israel."

"Israel allows both Jews and Arabs full and equal rights and privileges, including participation in the government, universities, and business. So it is a stabilizing influence in the Middle East. Christian communities in other countries in the Middle East are suffering persecution and death. What a stark contrast to the religious freedom in Israel."



**EMBASSY PROTEST** — The May 14 opening of the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, a move from Tel Aviv ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump early in his administration, drew violent protests from the sworn enemies of the Israelis, the Palestinians, along the Israel/Gaza border. (BP screen grab courtesy of Australian Broadcasting Company)

In addition, Sibley said, "the modern State of Israel is also a testimony to the truthfulness of God's Word and the faithfulness of God to His promises. He is gathering the Jewish people from the four corners of the earth back to the Land of Israel, even as He promised in Isaiah 11:11 and Ezekiel 36-37."

"In Romans 11, Paul says that God's promises are irrevocable, so when we see the modern State of Israel, we can take comfort that His promises to us are certain, as well. Furthermore, to see the vibrant and growing remnant of Jewish believers in Jesus (Yeshua) here

in Israel is also to be assured of His faithfulness."

Ric Worshill, president of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship, a group of Jews who follow Jesus as the Messiah, said the anniversary of Israel's founding is an occasion to celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise to make the Promised Land as "an everlasting possession" of the children of Abraham (Genesis 17:8; 48:4).

It is also, he said, an occasion to recommit to share the Gospel with Israel's people.

"All of us Christians around the world should be joining with the people of Israel in celebrating

the 70-year anniversary of their return to the land (Eretz). This reestablishing of the national sovereignty for Israel and its people is a miracle that only God could perform," Worshill told BP in written comments.

He added, "There are many people groups in Israel. Some have a relationship with Jesus and many don't. It is our goal to bring to all of them the Good News of their Jewish Messiah."

Bishara, pastor of First Arabic Church in Phoenix, lamented the death of at least 52 Palestinians in mass protests against the embassy move and Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Citing Ephesians 1 among other Scriptures, he said the church — not ethnic or national Israel — is the people of God under the New Covenant, and political support of national Israel should not be confused with faithfulness to Scripture.

Palestinians in Gaza "are robbed of their freedoms" through "annexation of land" and "taking land from them to build [Jewish] settlements," said Bishara, who served on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's Multi-ethnic Advisory Council.

Evangelicals need to focus increasingly on delivering humanitarian aid to Palestinians as well as sharing with them "the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

Southern Baptists, Bishara added, "have got to be independent of politics" and "speak the truth."

## OBITUARY

**Eugenia Johnson "Jean" Glaze**, 91, longtime Southern Baptist missionary and educator, of Clinton, died May 4 at Brookdale Assisted Living in Clinton. She was the wife of A. Jackson Glaze, Jr. Born in Greenwood, S.C., on June 5, 1926, she was the daughter of the late George Luther Johnson and Alma Parkman Johnson and a graduate of Lander College in Greenwood, S.C., and Southern Seminary's Women's Missionary Training School in Louisville, Ky. She was a religious education worker at First Church in Anderson, S.C., and teacher in Jefferson County, Ky. Glaze was a missionary with the Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention alongside her husband from 1953-1980 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she served in churches and at her home, and taught at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires. She and her husband retired in Clinton.



GLAZE

After returning from Argentina she served as a ministry assistant at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson from 1982-1983. She was a Spanish teacher at Hinds Community College in Raymond from 1982-1984, and at New Orleans Seminary from 1990-1994. She was preceded in death by her sister Helen Kettman Smith of Nashville, Tn., and her brother George (Buddy) Johnson of Greenwood, S.C. She is survived by her husband of nearly 69 years, A. J. Glaze, and her children: David (Gloria) Glaze of Brandon; Steve (Ruth) Glaze of Lynchburg, Va.; Deb (Keith) Wells of Philadelphia; and Tim (Laurie) Glaze of Hattiesburg; also her sister Joyce (Phil) Nickles of Greenwood, S.C.; brother Frank (Ann Wynne) Johnson of Charleston, S.C.; twelve grandchildren; and 21 great grandchildren. Funeral services were May 10 at First Church, Clinton. Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## SBC meet to see rise in attendance

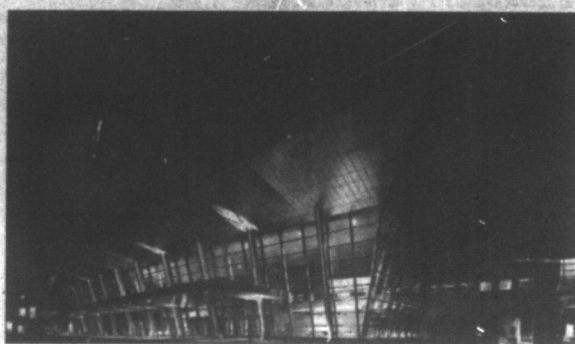
**DALLAS (BP)** — This summer's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Dallas is in line to have the highest attendance since 2010, according to one of the event coordinators.

Advance hotel reservations which ended May 14 are about 25% ahead of reservations this time last year, said William Townes, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention finance in Nashville.

"With less than a month remaining until our upcoming SBC annual meeting, we are looking forward to a prayerful, deliberative, constructive and gracious gathering of our Southern Baptist family in Dallas this summer," Townes said.

Townes projected between 8,000 and 9,000 messengers could attend the meeting June 12-13 at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center, based on current hotel reservations and advance messenger registrations.

If those numbers hold, the messenger attendance at an SBC annual meeting has not been that high since the 2010 annual meeting in Orlando, when the official count was 11,075.



Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center

Topped with 5,000 to 6,000 invited guests, exhibitors, and other attendees, total attendance this year could surpass 14,000.

At the 2017 annual meeting in Phoenix, 5,015 messengers were joined by 4,300 guests and exhibitors and others to total 9,315 in attendance, Townes said. When the SBC last convened in Dallas in 1997, messenger registration was 12,420.

Since 2012, messenger registration has fluctuated between 5,103 and 7,874.

Attendees still needing housing should make reservations directly with Dallas area hotels. The Omni Dallas Hotel is the official convention hotel, located next to the Dallas convention center at 650 S Griffin St.

Churches or bus operators bringing groups to the convention center should contact Executive Committee meeting planner Lynn Richmond at lrichmond@sbc.net for information on available bus parking, and passenger drop-off and pick up locations.

## MC

cont. from p. 1

institutional ties with local, state, and federal communities.

A civic booster, Thompson is a board member of KIPP Columbus, a public charter school educating over 2,000 inner city students; a board officer for Revi Ventures, a technology-based business incubator; president of Our Ohio Renewal, a nonprofit dedicated to addressing social challenges facing Ohio families; and founding board chair of The Thompson Institute, a campus ministry dedicated to serving faculty as they integrate their faith with their professions.

Thompson's wife Jana, also a Rienzi native, is an honors graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy and has practiced pharmacy in several settings. They are the parents of three children: son Grey, age 14; daughter Sarah Blake, age 11; and daughter Cate, age eight. The family owns and operates a blueberry farm.

"Jana and I grew up and were educated here, and we developed our core values here in Mississippi," Thompson said. "We then pursued professional opportunities in some of the most vibrant places in the country, but we always sensed that we wanted to come home. I am thankful the chance to do that presented itself as MC's president."

"God has richly blessed our family on our journey, and we believe He will continue to bless us and the entire Mississippi College family for years



**MC FIRST FAMILY** — Blake Thompson (center) was presented as the new president of Mississippi College (MC) on May 14 on the Christian university's Clinton campus. Members of Thompson's family include (from left) son Grey; daughter Sarah Blake; daughter Cate, and wife Jana. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

"God has richly blessed our family on our journey, and we believe He will continue to bless us and the entire Mississippi College family for years to come as we take this important next step."

**Blake Thompson**

**Mississippi College president**

to come as we take this important next step."

Bill Sones, chair of the presidential search committee and president of the Bank of Brookhaven, said, "We are so excited to begin a new era

at Mississippi College under the leadership of Dr. Blake Thompson. It has been a real pleasure to get to know the Thompsons and now to welcome them back home to Mississippi."

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal

service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Perry Association:** Countywide Rotating Revival with all 20 churches participating, May 20 - 23; Jimmy Porter, Ken Rhodes, Rick Blythe, and Don Lum, speakers; Terry Dewitt, Ian Richardson, Lavon Gray, Don Morgan, and Leon Small, music.

► **Wayside Church, Yalobusha County:** Homecoming, May 20; service, 10:45 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Fletcher Moorman, speaker.

► **Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian:** Homecoming, May 20; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner on the

grounds; cemetery fund special offering; Charles Davis, speaker; Harold Hollingsworth, worship leader.

► **Airport Church, Grenada:** Homecoming, May 20; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish dinner; Bobby McKay, speaker; Clark Faulkner, music.

► **Bellevue Church, Pontotoc County:** Homecoming, May 20; service, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; David Ard, speaker.

► **Wayside Church, Seobey:** Homecoming - Memorial, May 20; service, 10:45 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Fletcher Moorman, speaker.

## College News

► **Retirement reception** for Nancy Aulds, BSU director, Mississippi University for Women, May 20, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.; First Church, Columbus, at The MAC.

► **Retirement reception** for Tom McLaughlin, BSU director, Northwest Mississippi Community College, BSU Center, May 24, 6 - 8 p.m.

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## Giving Faithfully • 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

As I write this lesson, my son has just finished a week of midnight shifts, and is looking forward to a couple of days working in his backyard garden. Enjoying lazy afternoons in the sun, a variety of seed pots had already produced healthy-looking shoots of corn, green beans, squash, tomatoes, okra and bell pepper from seeds farmer Joe had planted weeks earlier.

Past experience has taught my son to plant more seedlings than he thinks necessary to ensure an abundance of healthy veggies. Were he to be stingy with his planting, he could well be disappointed in the results at harvest time.

The relationship between sowing and reaping is a key point in this week's lesson from 2 Corinthians 9. Paul nears the end of the epistle to these believers by reminding them of a commitment they had previously made. This congregation had promised a "generous gift" (vs. 5 CSB) to assist impoverished members of the church at Jerusalem. (Chapter 8 gives more details about the joint effort.) Paul wanted to be sure the Corinthians would indeed carry out the giving they had eagerly planned. He had boasted about this church to the Macedonian Christians, who, even while enduring "extreme poverty" themselves, had been inspired to give "beyond their ability" (8:2-3) to this offering. So,

Paul felt it necessary to send some of his fellow workers on ahead of the actual collection time, to make sure the gift was ready (9:3). In case any from Macedonia came with Paul later, he didn't want himself or the Corinthians to be embarrassed, and it to appear the collection was being forced (vs. 5).

Just as my son plants an abundant supply of seedlings, hoping to reap a plentiful harvest, the same concept applies to the spiritual vein. Paul reminded the Corinthians (and us, as well) that "the person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously" (vs. 6). But the apostle also encourages offering gifts from a willing heart, "not reluctantly or out of compulsion." Truly, the Lord delights in those who give with pleasure (vs. 7).

So what will be the result to those who give willingly and generously? God's grace will be given to such persons in abundance. Paul assures them that this outpouring of grace will provide everything the givers need

to "excel in every good work" (vs. 8). Referencing Psalm 112:9, he links willingness to give to the less-fortunate to being righteous (vss. 9-10). We're reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Luke 12:34 reiterates this premise: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." One whose relationship with God produces a righteous lifestyle will not allow money to usurp the throne of

his or her heart. Henry and Richard Blackaby, in their devotional book, "Experiencing God Day by Day," put it succinctly: "There is no room for misers in God's kingdom....If you struggle to give freely to others, you have become more attached to the gift than to the Giver."

In verse 10, Paul reminds his readers that the blessings received are all from God, from the beginning ("seed") to the end ("bread"). Look at

the words describing the lavish abundance of our Lord: "provide," "multiply," "increase," and "enriched" (vss. 11). We can't outgive God!

In addition to "supplying the needs of the saints," the gifts collected from the churches would bring glory to God, as the Christians in Jerusalem thanked and praised their heavenly Father. This sharing also provided an authentic voice for the gospel (vss. 12-13). A bond of love and network of prayer support would be formed, as well.

Thinking of the rich, grace-filled blessings the Lord allowed these members to provide caused Paul to recall the ultimate presentation: "...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23b). Breaking into joyful praise, Paul exclaims, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift" (vs. 15)! No physical or material blessing can compare to this treasure.

The heart attitude is worth more in God's sight than the amount; remember Jesus' perspective of the poor widow's offering (Mark 12:42-44). Corrine Wells affirms: "You do not have to be rich to be generous. If he has the spirit of true generosity, a pauper can give like a prince."

*Maniscalco is a member of Emmanuel Church in Ocean Springs.*



Explore the Bible  
with Ann Maniscalco

## Stand Up and Speak • Esther 7:1-10

Too many people want to deal with wrongs against themselves or others by being the judge, jury, and executioner. These roles have never been given to Christians; rather, we serve the One who is the ultimate judge. Our role is that of a witness, to expose the wrong and point to the right. God calls us to be witnesses to His truth and what is right.

### Esther 7:1-6 - Expose the deeds of darkness.

How much did Haman know about Esther? Not much, it seems. If he had known about the connection between Mordecai and Esther, he probably wouldn't have been looking forward to this, the fifth banquet mentioned in the Book of Esther. Once more, the king asked Esther what her request was and, swallowing hard, Esther tells him.

"Spare my life," she says, and that must've caught King Ahasuerus off guard. Why would she have been in any danger? Then she completes the thought: "And spare my people." See what Esther did? Rather than simply saying that there was a man in the kingdom set on destroying the Jews, she couched her request in personal terms - surely the king didn't want his queen to die!

I'd imagine it was like Esther had lobbed a live grenade into the palace.

The king and Haman were probably wondering the same thing. What did Esther mean by "her people?" Wasn't she Persian? Mordecai, early on, had told Esther not to reveal her ethnicity or nationality.

So for a moment Ahasuerus and Haman stood there, slack-jawed. The king had told Haman that all the Jews in the kingdom were to be destroyed. As Esther pointed out, it wasn't as though she and her people were to be sold into slavery. She tells them there is a day set aside that she and all her people were to be destroyed.

The king manages to pull himself together. He asks Esther, "Who is this, and where is the one who devise such a scheme?" (v. 5). It has dawned on him by now that not only was his queen Jewish, but he had signed her death warrant. He wants answers.

So Esther drops the second bombshell. "The adversary and enemy is this evil Haman." Now the king knew: one of his favorite officials was the guilty one. Ahasuerus has been betrayed.

Esther simply exposed the deeds of darkness. This is paralleled in Ephesians 5:11: "Don't participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them." In one of the great understatement of scripture, verse 6b reads, "Haman stood terrified before the king and queen." You think?

### Esther 7:7-10 - Leave vengeance in the hands of God.

The king made a vain attempt to walk off this revelation - but the more

he stalked around, the madder he became. He couldn't believe that Haman could do such a thing. Ahasuerus has been duped.

He looks like a fool from misjudging Haman and giving him such a high position.

Haman, meantime, has been reduced from a cocky, self-promoting egotist to a simpering coward. His true character has been revealed. So while the king is seething in anger, Haman, desperate, throws himself on Esther's mercy; or, at least, he apparently throws himself on Esther's

self. As was the custom, Esther was reclining on a couch during the meal, and Haman falls on the couch himself.

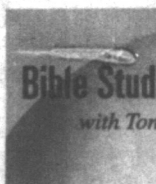
Talk about poor timing! Ahasuerus, already livid, comes back in to see Haman draped across his wife. That pushed the king over the edge, if he hadn't been there already. Haman has attacked his queen!

That was all that was needed to seal Haman's fate, since an assault on the queen was a capital crime. One of the king's eunuchs, Harbona, watched the whole scene unfold. The king doesn't even have to give orders. They cover Haman's face in preparation for his execution.

Harbona helpfully suggests that there is a gallows available, informing the king that it was designed for Mordecai ... and reminds the king that Mordecai had given the report that saved Ahasuerus's life. "Get it done," the king says, in effect. They did, and the king's anger subsided.

The king administered justice. For us, justice is ultimately in the hands of the supreme authority: Christ Himself. "Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, 'Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay,' says the Lord" (Romans 12:19).

*Martin is Associate Editor of The Baptist Record.*



Bible Studies for Life  
with Tony Martin



## Just for the Record



The youth of **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, presented the "Lawrence Welk Show" as entertainment for the annual desert auction fund raiser.



The Single Visions Sunday School class, **FIRST CHURCH, MADISON**, enjoyed a road trip to Mound Bayou and Merigold to visit the pottery shops and have lunch.



The J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) of Fair River Church, Brookhaven, traveled for a day out to lunch and sight-seeing in Natchez. Jay Anderson, pastor.



**HOLLYWOOD CHURCH, NORTH DELTA ASSOCIATION**, held its Walk for Life walk with breakfast afterwards Apr. 28.



**NEW BETHEL CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY**, awarded Jeremiah Study Bibles to its seniors during a special Senior Night service. Shown are Nelson Parker, Walker Swindle, and Kaleb Hicks. Joseph Sansing, left, pastor.



**IMMANUEL CHURCH, GREENWOOD**, honored their graduating seniors May 6 with a special recognition service and covered dish luncheon. Shown are Analise Bush, Molly Tucker, Mary Morgan Plunkett, AJ Woodward, and Jeff Jacks.



**FIRST CHURCH, TUPELO**, recognizes its 2018 seniors during a baccalaureate service.



**CENTER HILL CHURCH, MONROE ASSOCIATION**, held a senior adult appreciation day Apr. 29. Each senior adult was given a red carnation and was the honored guest at a church-wide meal. Terry Edwards, pastor.



**PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, FALKNER**, honored its high school and college graduates: Chelsea Dunnam, Pierce Johnson, Samantha Bates, Morgan Jackson, Makenzie Smith, and Morgan Childs.

### In other Church News:

► **Grace Church, Vicksburg**, will host James Buie, a chalk artist, May 20, 5:30 p.m., followed by dessert and coffee. Love offering.